



THE MORNING NEWS

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Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

RCA U9 football team to compete at Disneyworld



ORANJESTAD – The RCA U2 soccer team, comprised of youngsters 8 to 9 years old, will travel to Disney World in fulfillment of their dream: to play in the Disney International Soccer Cup.

The team is an all-star selection from the RCA Mini Baby and Baby Team Kids.

The trip was possible partly through funds of the club and various fundraising efforts organized by the team.

A heartfelt 'thank you' goes to Odor Family of Big Wheel Lottery for their support. Also to all who bought a raffle ticket to help the team raise the needed funds.

The Disney International Soccer Cup tournament is from July 10 to 16, 2011. We wish all players and coaches great success, along with their ardent fans, all parents accompanying their children to the competition.

The players are: Keeper

Zion Odor; Alexon Simmons; Alexei Simmons; Terrence Tromp; Giangelo Davelaar; Gionne Davelaar; Ilhan Soto Soto; Noah Rodriquez; Najee-Akeem de Freitas; Juan Villaraga; Marcel Andres Malmaceda; Jake Angela and Julian Arends

The coaches are: Rafael Venagas (Head Coach); Alexander Simmons; Sjurendi Granviel and Felix Malmaceda (Keeper Coach).

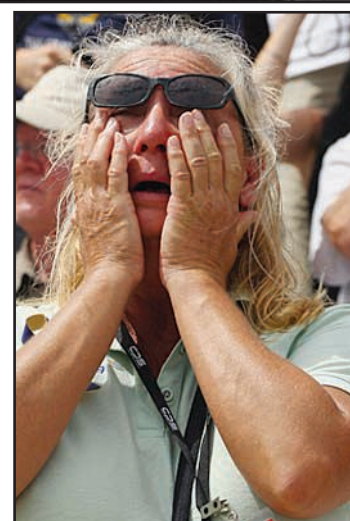
NASA's last space shuttle blasts into history



CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida — The space shuttle Atlantis soared into the heavens and the history books yesterday (July 8), kicking off the last-ever mission of NASA's storied shuttle program.

Despite a bleak forecast of thunderstorms and clouds, the shuttle beat the weather in a stunning midday launch, sailing into the sky on one final voyage. The countdown toward liftoff took a dramatic pause at T minus 31 seconds while ground crews verified that a vent arm at the top of the shuttle was fully retracted. NASA was quickly able to push on toward liftoff.

Atlantis blasted off just after 11:26 a.m. EDT from Launch Pad 39A here at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, thrilling huge throngs of spectators who had descended on Florida's Space Coast to see the swan song of an American icon. NASA estimated that between 750,000 and 1 million people turned out to watch history unfold before their eyes.



NASA employee Lisa Knight cries as Space Shuttle Atlantis lifts off

"Good luck to you and your crew on the final flight of this true American icon. Good luck, god speed and have a little fun up there," shuttle launch director Mike Leinbach told the crew just before launch.

After 135 launches over 30 years, the space shuttle will never streak into the sky again.

Continued on page 9

Tropical wave moving toward T&T

-- Heavy rain, moderately strong winds and scattered thunderstorms lashed Trinidad and Tobago and the Southern Windward Islands as "a very active tropical wave" moves toward them.

According to the National Hurricane Centre out of Miami, Florida, "although development of this system is not expected... there is a low chance—ten percent—of this system becoming a tropical cyclone during the next 48 hours."

The Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service yesterday issued an information bulletin "strongly underscoring that Trinidad and Tobago is not under any tropical storm threat, watch or warning at this time."



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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

UN: US breached int'l. law in Mexican execution

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) - The United States violated international law by executing a Mexican national who was denied his consular rights, UN human rights chief Navi Pillay said Friday.

Texas carried out the controversial execution of Leal Garcia on Thursday, despite calls for reprieve from both the White House and Mexican government.

"The execution of Mr. Leal Garcia places the US in breach of international law. What the State of Texas has done in this case is imputable in law to the US and engages the United States' international responsibility," she added.

At least 51 Mexicans on death row in the US, including Garcia, were not informed after their arrests that they could get legal help from the Mexican consulate, a violation of the Vienna Convention.

The International Court of Justice ruled in 2004 that the United States had to review the cases of the 51 Mexican nationals on death row because none of them had received consular services. This review never took place, the UN statement said.

In a rare intervention, the US government's top lawyer had urged the Supreme Court to spare Leal's life, saying his execution would cause "irreparable harm" to US interests.

But the Supreme Court denied the request for a stay of execution in a 5-4 decision.

US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was "disappointed" that Texas went ahead with the execution.

British PM's ex-aide arrested over tabloid scandal



LONDON, England (AFP) - Police arrested David Cameron's ex-media chief and a former royal reporter over Britain's tabloid phone hacking row Friday as the prime minister promised urgent inquiries into the spiralling scandal.

Cameron looked rattled during the toughest press con-

ference of his year in power, but he defended his decision to hire Andy Coulson, the former editor of Rupert Murdoch's News of the World tabloid, which is to shut this weekend.

He admitted the scandal went to the heart of the British establishment, saying: "The truth is, we have all been in this together -- the press, politicians and leaders of all parties, and yes, that includes me."

Cameron said he gave Coulson a "second chance" after he quit the News of the World in 2007 when two people were jailed over voicemail hacking. Coulson resigned as his communications chief in January, saying continuing claims were a distraction.

Murdoch surprised observers on Thursday when he killed off the 168-year-old News of the World, Britain's biggest-selling Sunday paper, amid claims that it hacked the

voicemails of a murdered girl and the families of dead soldiers.

Cameron announced that he would set up a public inquiry led by a judge into the furore around the paper, as well as a second inquiry into the way in which the British press is regulated.

As he was speaking, London's Metropolitan Police arrested Coulson by appointment at a south London police station "in connection with allegations of corruption and phone hacking".

The corruption allegations refer to alleged improper payments to police officers by the paper when Coulson edited the News of the World from 2003 to 2007.

Police raided the offices of another British weekly tabloid, the Daily Star Sunday, where Goodman had worked as a freelance reporter over the past year.

Machu Picchu rediscovered 100 years ago



MACHU PICCHU : Handout picture released by the Peruvian agency Andina of Peruvian President Alan Garcia as he poses during the commemoration of the centennial of the discovery of the Inca Citadel of Machu Picchu, 130 km northwest of Cusco, Peru, on July 7, 2011. Machu Picchu recognized as a World Wonder in 2007 sits at 2,350 meters above sea level in the heart of the Urubamba valley in southern Peru, 510 kilometers south of Lima was opened to the world by American adventurer and archaeologist Hiram Bingham. The complex which remained unknown to Spanish conquerors is now visited by up to 250,000 a year.

AFP PHOTO/ANDINA

DR. Congo plane carrying 112 crashes, some survivors

KINSHASA, DR Congo (AFP) - A plane carrying 112 people crashed as it attempted to land in stormy weather in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo Friday, but at least 53 people have survived, the air company said.

The plane, operated by Hewa Bora Airways, crashed at Kisangani airport in the northeast of the country.

"We don't know how many people are dead but there are at least 53 survivors from a total 112 passengers and personnel crew," the airline's director Stavros Papaioannou, told AFP. "The crew members of the Boeing 727 are the first (confirmed) dead."

"They arrived at Kisangani, there was bad weather, they tried to land without reaching the runway," he continued,

adding that heavy rains at the time had hampered the rescue operation.

The plane was on its regular commercial route from Kinshasa to Kisangani and Goma when it was hit by the storm as it approached the airport, Lambert Mende, a spokesman for the local administration said.

A plume of black smoke could be seen at the end of the runway, an AFP journalist reported. But flights, which had been suspended after the crash, resumed a short time later.

Plane accidents frequently occur in DR Congo which are often blamed on ageing and poorly maintained aircraft, the flouting of safety rules and bad weather.

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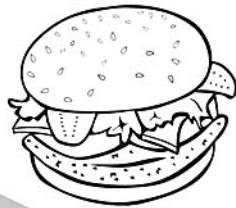
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Hospital, AZV and Cardiologists reach agreement



ORANJESTAD -- In a new agreement between the Aruba Horacio Oduber Hospital and our local Cardiologists and the AZV, cardiac care has taken on a new dimension.

In this agreement Cardiologists can now conduct cardiac diagnostics on patients based on heart catherisation. This is an agreement that will significantly improve the quality of care and at the same time reduce expenses in view of the fact that it will no longer be necessary to send patients to other countries for this type of diagnostic work.

Heart catherisation is a diagnostic procedure which provides detailed information of the coronary arteries around the heart and information on exactly how the heart and its various valves are functioning.

A patient who presents with a heart complaint will be required to have his cardiologist examine his heart. The cardiologist may decide to do a catherisation to be able to obtain a more accurate diagnosis.

In the past patients who needed to have this procedure done had to be sent to Colombia or Venezuela for this pro-

cedure. However, now with this agreement, the AZV insured patient this can have this procedure done right here in Aruba. The Aruba Hospital has the necessary equipment, our local Cardiologists have the expertise to perform the procedure, hence this procedure will henceforth be done locally with the support of AZV.

This opens up a new area of positive development on Aruba in our effort to take the quality and care of patients on Aruba to the next level of excellence.

First quarter tourism results are impressive

ORANJESTAD -- Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber congratulated ATA and its partners for the impressive tourism results of the month of June. The

results of the first six months of the year are very impressive.

The month of June was a record-breaking month of vi-

sitors to our island. Aruba received more visitors in June of 2011 since 1997 with a whopping increase of 13.23% compared to 2010.

Numerous projects designed to transform Aruba, as we know it!

ORANJESTAD -- Next week there will be a series of public bidding taking place. The Albo Construction company won the bid for the "Binnenhof" (City Center) project. The Infra-Team is now discussing the details of the project with Albo, according to Minister of Infrastructure, Benny Sevinger.

The government's team of experts in the Infra-Team along with the architect Hoevertsz and Mr. Ponson met with Albo to find ways to reduce some of the cost. They finally arrived at the sum of 18 million Aruban florins. It is expected that during the next few days they will be able to present an official advice to the government so they can proceed with signing the official bid agreement and commence with the work. This means that within a matter of weeks still another project will be initiated.... the city center project.

Two areas, in the Zoutmanstraat and near the Sonesta they will begin reconstruction work with the view of making every effort to conserve the monumental structures. These projects are on the 2012 calendar.

As soon as the minister receives the letter to authorize the funds, they will begin re-



construction of the former Tax Offices Building. This project will also be open to a public bid. This week the minister also received the documents pertaining to the former Ambulance Post in San Nicolaas. This will also be open to public building along with the renovation of the park in front of Valero Esonoheights, Juana Morto, de Vuyst and Madiki. This is planned for next week.

Sievinger expects to receive Parliamentary approval for the WIF budget, which entails 10 Million Florins for new roads. The minister expressed satisfaction for the many ongoing projects. This he asserts is tremendous as it creates jobs for our people as well as it literally transforms the island.

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Summer farewell for clients of Kibrahacha Center for 60+



Kibrahacha Director Diana Uchtmann with Notary Mayrene Helmeyer



First prize winner Theresita Frolijk

It was time to say so-long for the summer, as the staff, volunteers and clients of Centro Kibrahacha 60+ celebrated their end of their operating year and wished each other well for the long summer break.

This climax of the morning's celebration is the traditional raffle drawing. Anxious clients await the results as Certified Notary C. Mayrene A. Marugg-Helmeyer oversees the drawing from the yearly fundraising raffle, which offers fabulous prizes and is a major factor in financing the social center for the elderly.

This year, lucky Kibrahacha client Theresita Frolijk was the winner of the first prize, 8 days vacation for 2 at Disneyworld in Orlando, Florida; Second prize is a 7 day cruise for 2 on the Horizon and 3rd prize is 4 days vacation in Bonaire for 2. These last two were won by ticket holders of 3109 and 1626. Prizes 4 through 8, in descending order are a laptop computer, digital camera, weekend stay at Playa Linda Beach Resort, Sunday Brunch for 2 at the Hyatt Regency Resort, and dinner for 2 at Promenade Restaurant. These were won by ticket #: 1036, 6713, 1565, 5121, and 5291, respectively.

Centro Kibrahacha 60+ is primarily supported by the Rotary Club of Aruba, and various fundraising events they conduct throughout the year. They offer classes in handicrafts, Internet use, various sessions of physical fitness, such as Zumba and Tai Chi, and regular opportunities for social intercourse and cerebral stimulation for the elderly. Director Diane Uchtmann reports this year's raffle was "super successful; we printed an extra 50 books and sold every ticket."



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First quarter tourism results ...

Continued from page 3

Last year we received a total of 60.173 visitors, and this year that amount increased to 68.136, which is an increase of 8 thousand visitors for the month of June! Hence, we can say that June 2011 broke all records of tourist arrivals to Aruba.

Remarkable to note is that these results are in a month that is not normally considered to be a high volume month... June is usually a slow tourism month.

Currently the promotion and marketing of Aruba is proceeding much more professionally and well planned. The tourism results of the past six months testify to this.

June results show an increase from every region with the Latin American region leading the way with an increase of 48.03%. Likewise the European market has shown an increase of 19.81%.

Contrary to the drop from the North American market in May with 1.95%, in June this increased with 3.1%. These results, obviously, are especially significant for the Aruban economy.

The Minister also gave his perspective for the months ahead, which he claims are positive especially in view of the additional airline flights and new destinations that have opened up to Aruba.

Carnival Cruise Lines set to call 23 times and bring us 80 thousand visitors in 2012!



ORANJESTAD -- During 2010 Aruba received 5 calls from Carnival Miracle after a long absence from this prestigious cruise line. Those calls brought us 2300 passengers per call with an approximate 1000 crew members. The effect of the return of Carnival could be felt in our commerce.

Miracle continued into 2011 with a total of 9 calls bringing a total of 19.160 passengers who descended on our shores and spent money in our economy. In addition to passengers they brought us 9 thousand crew members rounding it out at about 28 thousand visitors from Miracle in 2011.

Now, after once again meeting with the top executives of Carnival in Miami, in 2012 Aruba will be visited 23 times by Carnival Cruises. This not only means a substantial increase in calls, but also with larger ships and many more passengers on each visit!

There will be 6 calls from Miracle with a passenger capacity of 2300, 8 calls from Freedom with a capacity of 2974 passengers, 7 calls from Valor with a capacity of 2974 passengers and finally the ship to be inaugurated in 2012 – Carnival Breeze with 2 calls in 2012 with a capacity of 3700 passengers!

The Minister expressed great satisfaction for this de-

velopment from Carnival especially as 10 of the 23 calls in 2012 will be in the Summer months. For strategic reasons cruise companies normally take a leave from the Caribbean on their itinerary in the Summer and instead head out to Europe and Asia. Yet, they have chosen to come our way. This, according to Oduber, is an indication of their confidence in Aruba.

In addition to all of this, more calls and in the Summer months, the Minister also succeeded in getting Carnival to stay longer in our ports. Instead of departing at 4 in the afternoon, they will remain here until 11:30 at night. This obviously will give our cruise visitors more time to enjoy our attractions and activities and it goes without saying that they would be able to spend more in our economy.

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Sci-Tech

NTT DoCoMo plans green-energy cellphone masts



JAPAN -- Japan's largest mobile phone operator, NTT DoCoMo, plans to start powering its cellphone tower network with renewable energy such as solar, wind or biomass, the company said Friday.

The move could one day allow the company to feed excess electricity back into the grid, and would also act as a safeguard during power grid outages caused by natural disasters such as the March 11 quake and tsunami.

NTT DoCoMo, which has 90,000 cellphone relay stations, will start the project by building some 10 renewable

energy facilities in fiscal year 2012 to supplement the conventional electricity supply, media reports said.

Daisuke Sakuma, a spokesman at NTT DoCoMo, told AFP that "we are planning 'green transmission stations,' which would be run on eco-energy such as bio-fuel cells, wind or solar power."

"We have not decided details yet, including how many stations would be operated that way," he said, adding that the company could one day sell excess energy, although for now its aim was to meet its own power needs.

Sakuma said the move could also help protect the system against widespread blackouts. The March 11 seismic disaster knocked out power lines and mobile phone transmissions in large parts of the Japanese north-east.

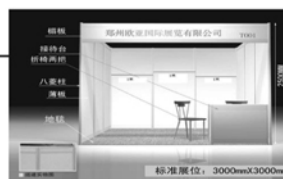
"In the wake of a major earthquake, a power outage of many hours would disrupt our service... Our plan is also meant to be an anti-quake measure, in addition to the environmental concerns."

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Landmark transplant uses stemcell-coated artificial windpipe

STOCKHOLM-- An international team of surgeons have successfully carried out the world's first transplant of a synthetic windpipe, the Swedish hospital where the groundbreaking operation took place said Thursday.

On June 9, a 36-year-old man suffering from late stage tracheal cancer, received a new trachea, or windpipe, made from a synthetic scaffold and covered with his own stem cells, the Karolinska University Hospital in the Stockholm suburb of Huddinge said in a statement.

The so-called regenerative medical procedure could, according to the hospital, revolutionise the field of trachea transplants, making them far more accessible.

"Transplantations of tissue engineered windpipes with synthetic scaffolds in combination with the patient's own stem cells as a standard pro-

cedure means that patients will not have to wait for a suitable donor organ," it pointed out.

This would be especially beneficial to children, "since the availability of donor tracheas is much lower than for adult patients," it said, stressing that having quick access to operations would in turn give patients a greater chance of recovery.

The transplant team was led by professor Paolo MacCiarini of Karolinska and included professor Alexander Seifalian of the University College London, who designed and built the artificial windpipe.

Researchers at Harvard Bioscience meanwhile made a special bioreactor used to seed the scaffold with the patient's stem cells, which were allowed to grow on the synthetic windpipe for two days before the transplant took place.

"Because the cells used to regenerate the trachea were the patient's own, there has been no rejection of the transplant and the patient is not taking immunosuppressive drugs," Karolinska said, adding that the man was "well on the way to full recovery and will be discharged from the hospital tomorrow (Friday)."

The synthetic trachea had been used as a last possible option, according to the team, since the man's tumour had despite radiation treatment grown so large it was threatening to block his entire windpipe and there was no suitable donor available.

Macciarini had already performed successful transplants of stem cell engineered tracheas, but in those cases the windpipes were taken from donors and then seeded with the transplant patient's stem cells.

NASA needs new 'breakthrough,' says Obama

WASHINGTON (AFP) - NASA needs new technology breakthroughs to revitalize its mission to explore the universe, President Barack Obama said Wednesday as the shuttle Atlantis was preparing for its final mission.

Asked during his first-ever Twitter town hall meeting about where America stands in terms of space exploration with the shuttle program about to end after 30 years, Obama said he was "proud" of the past but eager for a new leap forward.

"We are still a leader in space exploration, but, frankly, I have been pushing NASA to revamp its vision," Obama said.

"The shuttle did some ex-

traordinary work in low-orbit experiments, the International Space Station, moving cargo. It was an extraordinary accomplishment. And we're very proud of the work that it did," he added.

"But now what we need is that next technological breakthrough."

Obama, who axed NASA's Constellation program that would have returned astronauts to the moon, said that the United States should move beyond the space travel models it used in the 1960s for the Apollo program that first sent men to the moon.

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STARRING: Adam Steinfeld

WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.

LOCATION: Westin Resort & Casino Aruba

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COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / LOCALS: Afl. 40

TICKETS: at the theater door

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MagicLive.com - MagicOnTheBeach.com
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Health & Living

2008 crisis spurred rise in suicides in Europe



people aged younger than 65 in the pre-enlargement states rose by almost seven percent over 2007, the letter said.

The rise was especially marked in Greece (+17 percent) and Ireland (+13 percent), two of the worst-hit economies.

The financial crisis that began to hit Europe in mid-2008 reversed a steady, years-long fall in suicides among people of working age, according to a letter published on Friday by The Lancet.

Researchers looked at mortality data provided by 10 European Union countries.

They comprised six countries -- Austria, Britain, Finland, Greece, Ireland and the Netherlands -- that had been EU members before 2004, and four -- the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania and Romania -- that joined afterwards.

In 2008, suicides among

"This is... consistent with historical studies that show immediate rises in suicides associated with 'early indicators' of crisis, such as turmoil in the banking sector, which precipitates later unemployment," the epidemiologists said. In the four post-enlargement states, the number of suicides rose by one percent in 2008, but accelerated from 2009 when job losses started to bite.

Overall, mortality from all causes in the 10 countries remained stable.

A macabre footnote to that decline is a slump in the availability of organs for transplant.

chocolate good for my health?

Chocolate and its main ingredient, cocoa, appear to reduce risk factors for heart disease. Flavanols in cocoa beans have antioxidant effects that reduce cell damage implicated in heart disease. Flavanols also help lower blood pressure and improve vascular function. Dark chocolate contains more flavanols than does milk chocolate. *One caveat: The evidence for the healthy benefits of flavanol-rich chocolate comes mostly from short-term and uncontrolled studies.*

In the meantime, if you want to add chocolate to your diet, do so in moderation. Why? Most commercial chocolate has ingredients that add fat, sugar and calories. And too much can contribute to weight gain, a risk factor for high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes.

Choose dark chocolate with cocoa content of 65 percent or higher. Limit yourself to no more than 3 ounces (85 grams) a day, which is the amount shown in studies to be helpful. Because this amount may provide up to 450 calories, you may want to cut calories in other areas or step up the exercise to compensate.

Health Tip: Drinking and Pregnancy



drinking natural juices when pregnant is healthy.

-- Drinking alcohol while you are pregnant can cause your baby to be born with a series of physical and mental birth defects called fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS). It's a leading cause of mental retardation. No one knows exactly how much alcohol a woman has to drink to cause FAS in her baby (and that level may be different among women). So experts agree that the best thing to do is not to drink alcohol at

all while you are pregnant -- that includes beer, wine, wine coolers and liquor.

The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation offers these tips to help you quit:

- Avoid situations where you usually drink, like parties or bars.

- Ask your health care provider about alcohol treatment programs.

- Ask your partner, family and friends to help you stay away from alcohol.

- Join an Alcoholics Anonymous support group.



Please remember to check your breasts every month

Gente Bella Spa

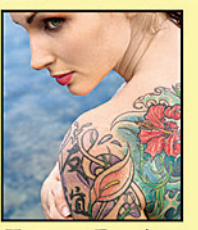
"Healthy Spirit Lives in Healthy Body"

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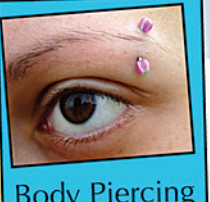
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Aruba, a unique and fantastic Bird Paradise!



Recently we discovered an island of birds in front of the Valero Aruba Refinery, something rather unique in the world.

The government is now charged with the responsibility for finding a way to protect these colonies of birds, especially the Bubi (as they are called here) birds.

Bird expert Greg Peterson and Professor Adrian Del Nevo who is also a bird expert, and an expert on the conservation of bird habitats, invited the Aruba Ministers to visit the islands in front of the refinery in San Nicolaas to get a first hand view of the bird haven there. Professor Del Nevo revealed that there are about ten different species of birds living together in the

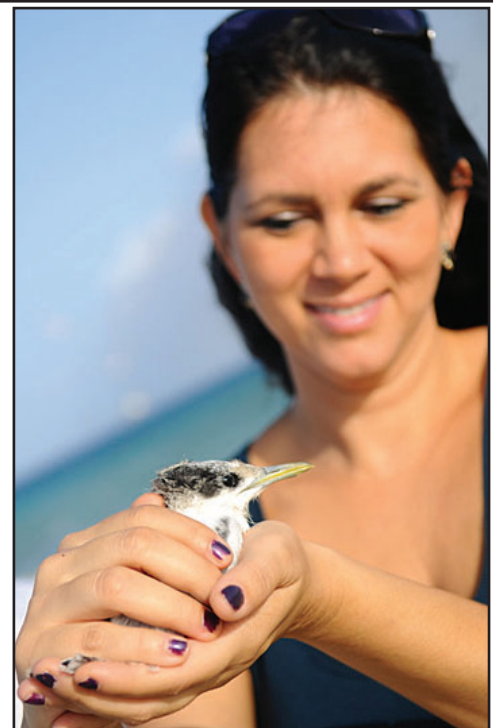


same area. This is very unique, because there is no other place in the world where this occurs according to Del Nevo.

He urged the government to take the necessary steps to protect these birds from those who, for example, will want to take away the eggs from the bird nests. Taking away eggs from their nests always disrupts the birds' habitat.

The islands are now being protected by employees of Valero who prevent people from coming close to the area and from taking away the eggs. Perhaps, as was suggested, the area could be placed under surveillance by PARK Rangers of the Parke National Arikok who are well equipped to care for the island where the birds are. Or perhaps they can implement a Marine Park. In any case, each possibility will need to be carefully studied.

Because of the rather unique population of birds, unique to Aruba, we are compelled to take the necessary steps to move quickly to conserve the area. They placed a ring on the feet of several of the birds to monitor their movements.





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Calixto de Kort, another lucky winner of Extra Inning Major League Baseball campaign of SETAR N.V.



Recently, SETAR N.V. picked another winner of its Extra Inning Major League Baseball campaign from among All SETAR Cable T.V. subscribers.

The winner is Calixto de Kort; he won a hat of his favorite team - New York Yankees, a DVD with all the team's greatest games, among

them the 7 World Series games of the New York Yankees against Pittsburgh in 1967. Calixto also won a weekend stay for 4 at the Mill Resort & Suites.

Photo shows Mr. de Kort, accompanied by his spouse, receiving his prize from SETAR N.V. Marketing representative Andreina Kock.

"Adapted Happy Beach" by Adapted Happy Wheels Aruba



Adapted Happy Wheels, which caters to clients with multiple disabilities and reduced mobility has announced they will host an Open Day event tomorrow on the Beach in front of the Beach Police Headquarters, located between Westin Hotel and Divi Phoenix). The event is to celebrate the Adapted Happy Wheels' first anniversary on Aruba and to thank everyone for their support and trust in the Adapted Happy Wheels service and products. All are invited to come and enjoy our beautiful beach while at the same time trying out their amphibious wheelchair free of charge.



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NASA's last space shuttle blasts into history

Continued from page 1

When Atlantis touches down later this month, its flying days will be over. But the orbiter will still have to be prepped for one final mission: educating the public about spaceflight, and perhaps inspiring youngsters to become astronauts themselves someday.

Like the two other remaining shuttles — Endeavour and Discovery — Atlantis will become a museum showpiece. Atlantis won't have to go far; it will assume a place of pride in the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex here.

Discovery is headed for the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, while Endeavour will make the trip west to the California Science Center in Los Angeles.

Without the space shuttles, NASA will rely on Russian Soyuz vehicles to ferry astro-

nauts to and from the space station, which is slated to operate until at least 2020. The agency wants private American craft to take over this taxi service eventually, but that probably won't happen for at least four or five years.

For its part, NASA has begun shifting its focus beyond low-Earth orbit. Last year, President Barack Obama charged the space agency with sending astronauts to an asteroid by 2025, and then on to Mars by the mid-2030s.

As exciting as both of these exploration prospects are, they remain far off, both in space and time. Right now, most thoughts are with Atlantis as it streaks toward the space station, its final mission closing out the life of a spacecraft that came to represent a nation in many ways.

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Rolling stone's lack
5. Singer Page or LaBelle
10. Dust mop's target
12. Ames natives
14. Gasoline rating
15. Sufficient
16. Fancy pillow covering
17. Extreme
19. Old-time auto
20. Mai ____
21. Know-it-____
22. Ponder a problem
23. Pertaining to birth
25. Shoppers' aids
26. CD-____
27. Cocktail lounge
28. Crawl
31. Ate at eight
33. Limelight lovers
34. Singer Coolidge
35. Psychic letters
38. Nile serpent
39. Mariah Carey's nickname
40. London

farewell (2 wds.)

41. Sleuth Marlowe
43. Like a tight passageway
45. Placid
46. Athenians, e.g.
47. Varnish ingredient
48. A ____ trifle

DOWN

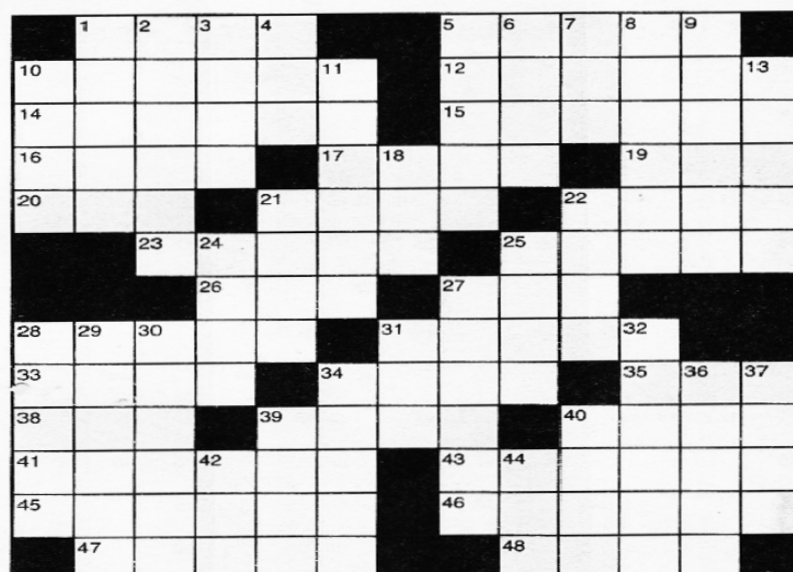
1. Starbuck's order
2. Acquire
3. Did the crawl
4. Washington VIP (abbr.)
5. Wharves' kin

6. The very best (2 wds.)

7. "Tea for ____"
8. Ford model
9. Eat
10. ____ of living
11. Wild confusion
13. Brogans
18. ____-advised
21. Above
22. Marsh
24. Son of Zeus
25. Lang or Turner
27. Nibbling
28. Fellows, in London
29. Slice of bacon
30. ____ State Building

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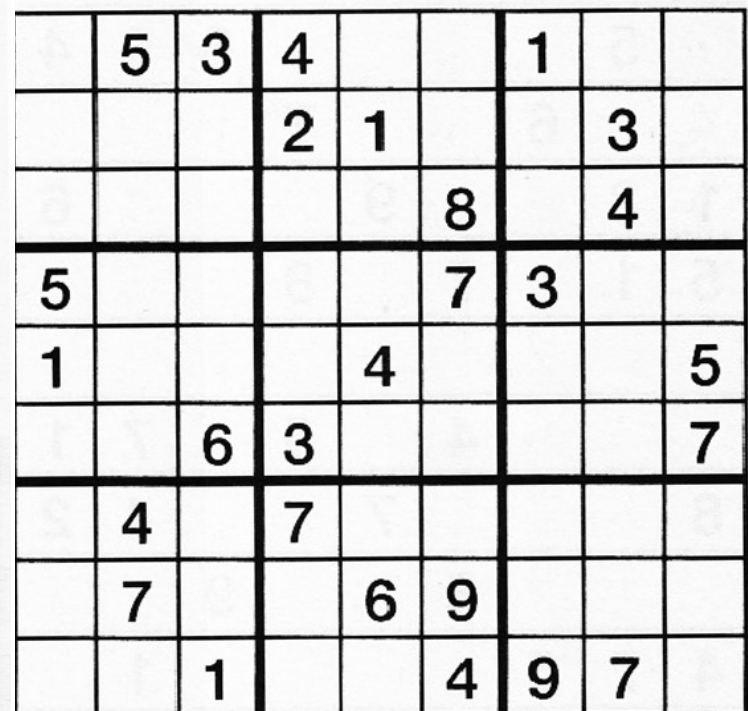
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| 2 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| 7 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 |
| 9 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 3 |
| 9 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 8 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

US stocks slump on gloomy jobs data

WASHINGTON- US stocks dropped sharply as markets opened on Friday, wiping out the previous day's gains after disappointing data on unemployment dashed hopes that the economic recovery might be regaining speed.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 109.21 points (0.86 percent) to 12,610.28 in the first 20 minutes of trading.

The broader S&P 500 shed

13.26 points (0.98 percent) to 1,339.96, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite tumbled 27.49 points (0.96 percent) to 2,845.17.

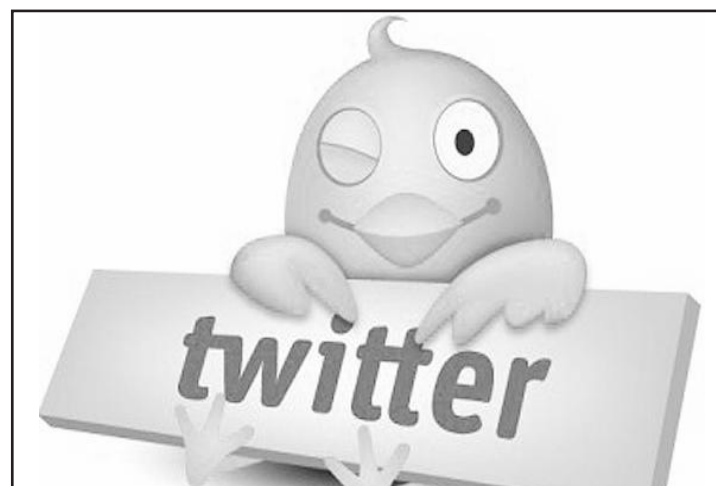
The sell-off came after the Labor Department reported that the US economy created a paltry 18,000 jobs in June, pushing the unemployment rate up to 9.2 percent and signalling that US growth stayed very weak during the entire

second quarter.

The report was a letdown for investors who had hoped the US economy was getting back on track after being bruised by disruptions from the Japan earthquake and a surge in commodities prices earlier this year.

Financial stocks also took a beating, with JPMorgan Chase down 1.5 percent and Bank of America down 1.7 percent.

Rising Twitter valued at \$8 bn: report



The US micro-blogging website Twitter is gaining value and is now worth an estimated \$8 billion, the New York Times reported Friday.

The newspaper, citing two people briefed on the matter, said the popular website is in the process of raising \$400 million in a deal that has provided the latest estimation of its value.

The Wall Street Journal had reported a similar deal on Tuesday, putting the company's valuation at up to \$7 billion.

The Times cited one of its sources as saying that the fi-

nancing round will be led by DST Global, the investment firm headed by Russian billionaire Yuri Milner, and that previous investors, including the venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, will also participate.

In December, Twitter received an injection of \$200 million from investors to help fuel its growth, reportedly giving the San Francisco-based company a valuation of \$3.7 billion.

That round of financing was led by Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers.

Twitter has fended off several buyers and has repeatedly said it is not considering going public.

Founded in 2006, the company recently announced that Twitter users are sending 200 million tweets a day, up from 65 million a year ago.

A recent study by the Pew Research Center said 13 percent of online US adults use Twitter, up from eight percent in November 2010. The site has more than 200 million total users.

Oil prices slide further on US payrolls report

LONDON, England (AFP) - World oil prices sank on Friday as traders took profits from the recent rally and digested disappointing payrolls data from top global crude consumer the United States.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate for delivery in August, tumbled \$2.40 to \$96.27 a barrel, after gaining \$2.02 on Thursday.

Brent North Sea oil for August dropped 55 cents to

\$118.04, giving back only some of Thursday's \$4.97 jump.

The US economy created a paltry 18,000 jobs in June, well short of modest forecasts for 80,000, pushing the unemployment rate up to 9.2 percent and signalling that US growth stayed very weak during the second quarter.

The data was a letdown for investors who had hoped that the world's biggest economy

was getting back on track.

US crude inventories fell 900,000 barrels in the week ending July 1. That was well short of market forecasts for a heavy 2.4-million-barrel drop.

US gasoline (petrol) reserves fell 600,000 barrels last week. That confounded expectations for a gain of 200,000 barrels and indicated stronger demand as prices fell and summer vacations began.

Israel bars pro-Palestinian activists



JERUSALEM : Israeli, Palestinian and foreign activists protest against Israel's occupation and settlement activity in the Palestinian territories and east Jerusalem during the weekly demonstration in Jerusalem's Palestinian Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood on July 8, 2011.

BEN GURION AIRPORT, (AFP) - Officials at Israel's main airport on Friday refused entry to 69 people they said were pro-Palestinian activists, and said most would be repatriated on the first available flights.

Correcting earlier com-

ments by police, immigration spokeswoman Sabine Hadad said that four people had already flown out of Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, and the remainder were in custody waiting to travel.

"They are from Spain, the Netherlands, many from

France, Bulgaria, the United States, Germany," she told AFP. "Legally they have been refused entry, they are not in Israel."

She said that during the course of the day 310 people were questioned on suspicion of taking part in the "Welcome to Palestine" campaign, which some have called the "flytilla," in which up to 800 activists were to fly in on a peaceful mission to visit Palestinian families.

But Israeli authorities said they largely managed to preempt the campaign by foreign activists -- most from France -- who are demonstrating for the right of access to the West Bank.

Officials said that by notifying foreign airlines of ticket-holders who would not be admitted to Israel they prevented hundreds from boarding at their ports of departure.

A statement from the public security ministry quoted regional police chief Benzi Sau as saying a joint operation by police, the foreign ministry and transport officials "prevented the departure of hundreds of activists at their points of departure for Israel."

In a statement, the organisers of the "flytilla" campaign condemned the Israeli pressure on airlines and threatened legal action.

"We call on all airline companies not to accept such provocative, blackmailing and illegal actions by the Israeli government," it said.

"Visitors travelling between countries have rights under international law and bilateral travel agreements," it added. "Those who had reservations cancelled will exercise their right of protest including bringing legal cases in their own countries."

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | M | O | S | S | | P | A | T | T | I | |
| C | O | B | W | E | B | | I | O | W | A | N |
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| T | A | I | | A | L | L | S | | M | U | S |
| | | N | A | T | A | L | L | I | S | T | S |
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| A | S | P | | M | I | M | I | | T | A | T |
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| S | | E | R | E | N | E | | G | R | E | E |
| | R | E | S | I | N | | | M | E | R | E |



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Parents guide to skin protection

It's important to protect your children's skin from the damaging effects of the sun. No matter what they're doing or what time of year it is, if they are outdoors, they need to be protected.

Aruba is one of the places in the world where the sun is the strongest. Located only 12.5 degrees north of the equator, the sun shines with maximum strength and penetrates the atmosphere with a maximum amount of UV rays. What most people don't know on water and sand, which means that even in the shade you need protection.

Protecting the skin from the sun during childhood and adolescence is important in reducing cancer risks later in life. By building safe sun habits into your family's daily routine, you will make your children understand and get used to being protected against the sun and they will become more aware of the harmful effects it can have to their skin. Parents should take the lead by giving the good example; children will respond better when they see their parents protecting their skin as well.



Important recommendations:

- Wear protective clothing when out in the sun. Choose shirts and slacks made of tightly woven fabrics that you can't see through when held up to light.
- Cover up with Hats. Choose hats that shade your child's face, neck and ears.
- Apply Sunscreen every day on skin that is not protected by clothing or a hat. Choose a sunscreen with a high Sun Protection Factor (SPF) such as Aruba Aloe's Waterproof SPF 30 sunscreen for maximum protection. For babies and children under 2 years old, make sure to use a special sunscreen that gives extra protection for the sensitive skin such as "Waterproof Babies SPF 30" from Aruba Aloe. Remember to reapply after swimming, sweating or toweling dry if you use a sunscreen that is not waterproof.
- Use sunscreen even on hazy or overcast days.
- Keep an extra bottle of sunscreen in the car.
- Pack a bottle of sunscreen in your child's bag.
- Use Sunglasses that block UV rays and protect the eyes and the surrounding tender skin.
- Play in the Shade. The sun's rays are generally strongest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If your children are outdoors, make sure their skin is protected.
- Teach your children the shadow rule. When outside, if your shadow is shorter than you are, it means that the sun is high in the sky and the UV rays are most intense.
- Protect children younger than 6 months of age with clothing and keep them in the shade.

For more advice on how to best protect your and your children's skin against the sun, please call Aruba Aloe: 588-3222 or visit the website www.ArubaAloe.com

Aruba Aloe products are available at most hotels, supermarkets, pharmacies and the Aruba Aloe Stores.



Buster's Garage in South Beach Center: One place for the whole family

Buster's Garage, a New York City landmark, made its way to Aruba about a year ago, and found a new home at the South Beach Center across from the Radisson Resort. Dedicated to the sports fanatic, the spacious but homey interior is the perfect place to keep up with your favorite team and have a great meal.

Fun for all the family, Buster's has typical sport bar fare such as chicken wings, quesadillas, calamari rings for munching while watching the main event on 24 giant plasma screens. Every seat is good seat for catching all the action. Open from noon for lunch or dinner, it has plenty of distractions for the younger crowd, including foosball, and a video arcade, so Mom and Dad can relax and enjoy their meal.

The moderately priced menu includes all your favorite finger foods and a great selection of local and imported beers. Customer reviews gave Buster's Garage 4.5 stars out of 5 on yellowpages-aruba.com; one declared "my wife and I happened to stumble upon it -but what a find!" Another stated "Owner Rusty is so down to earth. The food was very good and the prices were outstanding for the High-Rise area. Aruba needed a place like this."

Buster's regularly organizes special events with live music. At 10 p.m. it turns into a cozy adult hangout; 18 years and over only allowed, with a DJ on duty nightly and boasting the only beerpong table on Aruba. Aside from a great place to root for the home team or your favorites during playoffs and championships,

they regularly carry all UFC fights & WWE events.

Buster's is a great place where island visitors and residents mix and mingle; Monday to Thursday they close at 2:00 a.m., weekends at 4:00 a.m.



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Pamplona bull gores 'reckless' Australian



runners flying half-tonne bulls thundering through Pamplona's streets Thursday in the first bull-run of Spain's San Fermin fiesta, resulting in four injuries.

Spain- A fighting bull skewered a "reckless" Australian thrill-seeker in the leg Friday after he taunted the beast in Spain's San Fermin fiesta, organisers said.

A half-tonne bull pierced the tourist's right thigh with its horn and tossed him across the sand of the bull ring in the final stage of a daily bull-run

in Pamplona, northern Spain.

Doctor's in the bull-ring's surgery treated the man for damage to a major artery and his condition had improved, said a spokeswoman for the festival organisers.

The pack of six massive bulls and six steers thundered 846.6 metres through the winding streets of Pamplona from a holding pen to a bull-fighting ring in 3 minutes and 10 seconds, organisers said.

Thousands of runners, most dressed in white with red handkerchiefs, surrounded the charging bulls, some a few paces in front of the beasts' horns and others slapping them from the side or behind.

But once the herd entered the ring, the Australian tourist, dressed in a T-shirt and short jeans with a red bandanna around his waist, started waving his arms in the air, running and jumping behind a bull.

When the powerful beast

turned towards him, the man tried to switch direction but slipped and tumbled in the sand.

The bull lowered its head and drilled a sharp left horn into the man's right thigh, tossing him across the ground and then pushing its head into the man's back.

Other runners scrambled to distract the bull from its attack: one waved a matador's cape at the bull's head and another pulled its tail until the beast moved away.

The Australian, whose name was not given, stood up after his mauling, shown to millions on live television.

Four runners were also injured in the inaugural bull run on Thursday, a centrepiece of the alcohol-charged festivities popularised worldwide by Ernest Hemingway's 1926 novel "The Sun Also Rises".

The city of some 200,000 residents expects the festival, which runs to July 14, will lure at least as many tourists as last year when 1.5 million people turned out and hotels reported a 95-percent occupancy rate.

Every year between 200 and 300 participants in the run are injured. Most are hurt after falling but some are trampled or gored by the bulls despite increased safety measures.

In the evenings after the daily chase, the beasts are killed in the bull ring and their meat is served up in city restaurants.



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Legion of Honour awaits Liza Minnelli in Paris



Liza Minnelli, in Paris for a one-night concert next Monday at the fabled Olympia music hall, is to be inducted into France's order of the legion of honour, the culture ministry said. The 65-year-old entertainer, who collected an Oscar in 1972 for her performance in "Cabaret", is to made an officer of the order by Culture Minister Frederic Mitterrand at a ceremony a few hours before her show. Minnelli will be playing the Olympia -- where her 1969 appearance became a live album three years later -- as part of an international tour that took her to the Royal Albert Hall in London at the end of June. File Photo shows Lizza Minelli- (AFP)



The stars of the Harry Potter films each face the tricky task of forging a new career as the phenomenally successful series which has shaped their lives from an early age comes to an end. For 10 years, the British trio have grown up on screen, from pre-teenagers into young adults, in one of the most lucrative film series of all time. David Yates, who directed the final four Potter films, said he thought the trio had the maturity to forge the right career paths. Success... -(AFP)

Copa America - July 1 - 24

Take two for Brazil against Paraguay



CAMPANA

(AFP) - Like Argentina, Brazil have made a sluggish start at the Copa America, but they get a second chance to impress today against Paraguay at Cordoba.

An opening draw with unheralded Venezuela was an embarrassment of sorts for the auriverde yet the five-times world champions will be able to look back on that struggle as a necessary evil if they can add three points at Paraguay's expense.

With the Paraguayans finding Ecuador likewise too tough a nut to crack, everyone in Group B goes into the second round of matches level on points.

While Venezuela try to get past Ecuador as they target a place in the quarters for the second time in a row - but first outside their homeland - the Brazilians are knuckling down to try to prove their poor first match was an aberration, says coach Mano Menezes.

Midweek training at their Campana base, north of Buenos Aires, saw Menezes carefully go through various permutations, including one that would see Robinho, inef-

GROUP A GP

| PTS | | |
|------------|---|---|
| COLOMBIA | 2 | 4 |
| COSTA RICA | 2 | 3 |
| ARGENTINA | 2 | 2 |
| BOLIVIA | 2 | 1 |

GROUP B

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| PARAGUAY | 1 | 1 |
| BRAZIL | 1 | 1 |
| VENEZUELA | 1 | 1 |
| ECUADOR | 1 | 1 |

GROUP C

| | | |
|---------|---|---|
| CHILE | 1 | 3 |
| PERU | 1 | 1 |
| URUGUAY | 1 | 1 |
| MEXICO | | 1 |

PLACES 1-2: DIRECT ENTRY INTO THE COPA AMERICA QUARTERFINALS **PLACE 3:** TOP TWO BEST THIRD PLACE FINISHES ARE GRANTED ENTRY INTO THE QUARTERFINALS.

factual in the opener, dropped to the bench.

He also supervised a session without goalposts to work on tactics and general movement, perhaps in the hope that might whet the strikers' appetite after they

gave the impression they had forgotten where the net is at La Plata last Sunday.

Robinho could give way to Elano and Ramires to Lucas although Menezes is giving nothing away.

Robinho, now an elder statesman in a young squad with its eyes on the 2014 World Cup, has been keeping up a smile in training and that attitude has spread through a squad keen to draw a line under the Venezuela flop - the freezing conditions did not help.

Brazil left for Cordoba on yesterday and then head back to Campana on Sunday in order to prepare for the final showdown with Ecuador next Wednesday, also at Cordoba's Mario Kempes stadium.

Paraguay meanwhile must keep Brazil starlet Neymar under tight wraps, said defender Paulo Da Silva.

"He's quick, lively and causes plenty of problems so we'll have to be careful to get on top of him," said Zaragoza star Da Silva, who is aware he will have to be careful to time his tackles just right.

"He goes down easily on contact owing to his weight," said Da Silva, noting the Santos man is by no means a heavyweight at 62kg.

Da Silva says Paraguay must concentrate right to the final whistle "because they can pierce our ranks just once and win it. If you give them two or three metres start then you're taking a risk. Brazil live off the space their opponents give them," he warned.

Midfielder Nestor Ortigoza said simply: "We've got to get right in among them and get on top of them. We both need points."

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West Indies hit India
with triple blow

Indian cricketer Suresh Raina raises his bat to acknowledge the cheering crowd

ROSEAU, Dominica (AFP) - India reached 182 for five at tea but three wickets - including half century-makers Abhinav Mukund and V.V.S. Laxman - jolted them in the third Test against West Indies on Friday.

Mukund hit the top score so far of 62, and Laxman supported with 56, featuring in two successive half century stands, as the Indians continued their reply to West Indies' first innings total of 204 on the third day at Windsor Park.

But their carelessness, as well as Virat Kohli's, brought West Indies back into the game with their attack hamstrung by an illness that sidelined fast bowler Ravi Rampaul.

Mukund added 98 with Laxman either side of tea before he was caught at forward short leg off leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo, when playing defensively on the back-foot, he inside-edged the ball, which ricocheted onto his thigh pad and into the hands of the gleeful fielder.

Kohli has been under pressure to perform, and spent just over an hour to continue the grind, putting on 52 for the fourth wicket with Laxman before he was caught behind down the leg-side off West Indies captain Darren Sammy

for 30.

Laxman boosted West Indies' spirits, when he was stumped in bizarre fashion for 56, becoming the ninth Test scalp for Shivnarine Chanderpaul, peddling his uncomplicated leg-spin.

The stylish Indian batsman batted for a little over three and a half hours striking three fours from 129 balls.

He reached his 50 from 113 balls with a pull off a short delivery from Bishoo, but he absentmindedly failed to keep his back-foot grounded, after leaving alone a delivery from Chanderpaul.

West Indies wicketkeeper Carlton Baugh effected the stumping, confirmed by the TV replay umpire.

Before lunch, Mukund and Laxman steadied India, carrying them to 102 for two at the interval.

Mukund reached his 50 from 132 balls, playing a delivery from Bishoo uppishly through mid-on off the back-foot for a single.

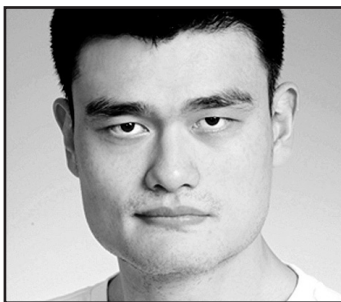
Vijay's horrific form on this trip continued, when he was caught behind off Fidel Edwards for five, playing defensively forward at a delivery that moved away outside the off-stump.

India were 18 for two, but Laxman joined Mukund, and they batted fluently to consolidate their side's position.

India hold a 1-0 lead in the three Test series, following a 63-run victory inside four days in the first Test at Sabina Park in Jamaica, and a draw in the second Test at Kensington Oval in Barbados.

The visitors are looking to wrap up their second straight Test series victory over West Indies in the Caribbean.

They are also looking to create a piece of history by becoming the first Indian side to win a Test and One-day International series in the Caribbean.

Chinese star Yao tells NBA
he has retired - report

HOUSTON, (AFP) - Yao Ming, the 2.29m Chinese giant who became the NBA's first superstar player from Asia, has notified the Houston Rockets and the NBA that he has retired, according to multiple reports Friday.

The Houston Chronicle, ESPN and Sports Illustrated

reported that Yao has decided against trying to make another comeback after injuries limited him to playing in only five games over the past two NBA seasons.

The Chronicle reported that Yao told the club a month ago he was not coming back.

With NBA players locked out by owners in a contract dispute, there was no immediate confirmation from the Rockets or the league regarding the status of Yao, whose groundbreaking career helped the global growth of basketball.

The 30-year-old from Shanghai made his debut for

the Rockets in 2002 after a stellar career for the Chinese national team and the Shanghai Sharks.

While Yao was not the first Chinese player in the NBA, his engaging personality made him a favorite for sponsors seeking a way to attract interest in China and for NBA fans across Asia.

Beyond that, there was a formidable set of skills. Yao had a shooting touch for shots away from the basket, a quickness with the ball that enabled him to baffle even the best of rival centers, including NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal, who himself retired last month.

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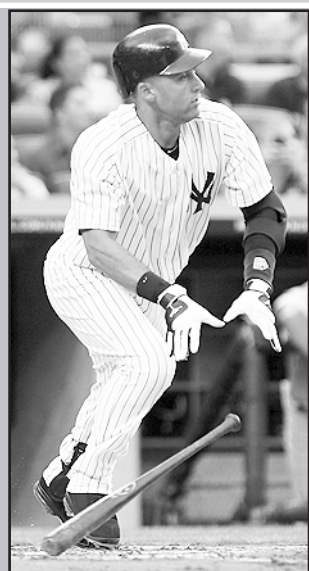
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Jeter moves closer to 3,000 career hits



NEW YORK (AFP) - New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter edged closer to a Major League Baseball milestone on Thursday, smacking a double for his 2,998th career hit in a 5-1 home loss to the Tampa Bay Rays.

Jeter is trying to become only the 28th player in major league history to reach 3,000 career hits. He would become the first player to achieve the feat while playing for the Yankees.

Jeter went 1-for-5 at the plate in the game, grounding out four times after moving within two hits of his goal.

On the first offering he received from Tampa Bay pitcher Jeff Niemann, Jeter smacked a line drive to left-centerfield in the first inning, drawing cheers from the crowd at Yankee Stadium, which included Jeter's parents.

Jeter will have three more games before the mid-season break for next Tuesday's Major League Baseball All-Star Game to reach 3,000 hits before home fans. The Yankees will return from the break with eight road games.

MLB Standings

American League

| East | W | L | Pct | GB |
|------------|----|----|------|-----|
| BOSTON | 52 | 35 | .698 | -- |
| NY YANKEES | 51 | 35 | .593 | 0.5 |
| TAMPA | 49 | 39 | .557 | 3.5 |
| TORONTO | 42 | 47 | .472 | 11 |
| BALTIMORE | 36 | 49 | .424 | 15 |

Central

| | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|------|------|
| CLEVELAND | 47 | 39 | .547 | -- |
| DETROIT | 47 | 42 | .528 | 1.5 |
| CHICAGO | 43 | 46 | .483 | 5.5 |
| MINNESOTA | 39 | 47 | .453 | 8.0 |
| KANSAS | 36 | 52 | .409 | 12.0 |

West

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|------|-----|
| TEXAS | 48 | 41 | .539 | -- |
| LA ANGELES | 47 | 42 | .528 | 1.0 |
| SEATTLE | 43 | 45 | .489 | 4.5 |
| OAKLAND | 39 | 50 | .438 | 9.0 |

National League

| East | W | L | Pct | GB |
|--------------|----|----|------|------|
| PHILADELPHIA | 55 | 33 | .625 | -- |
| ATLANTA | 53 | 36 | .596 | 2.0 |
| NY METS | 45 | 43 | .511 | 10.0 |
| WASHINGTON | 45 | 44 | .506 | 10.5 |
| FLORIDA | 40 | 48 | .455 | 15 |

Central

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|------|------|
| MILWAUKEE | 47 | 42 | .528 | -- |
| ST. LOUIS | 47 | 42 | .528 | -- |
| PITTSBURG | 45 | 42 | .517 | 1.0 |
| CINCINNATI | 44 | 45 | .494 | 3.0 |
| CHICAGO | 36 | 53 | .404 | 11.0 |
| HOUSTON | 30 | 59 | .337 | 17.0 |

West

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|------|
| SAN FRANCISCO | 50 | 39 | .562 | -- |
| ARIZONA | 48 | 41 | .539 | 2.0 |
| COLORADO | 41 | 47 | .466 | 8.5 |
| SAN DIEGO | 40 | 49 | .449 | 10.0 |
| LA DODGERS | 38 | 51 | .427 | 12.0 |

Konerko, Victorino named All-Stars

NEW YORK (AFP) - Chicago White Sox first baseman Paul Konerko and Philadelphia Phillies outfielder Shane Victorino were selected in Internet fan voting for Tuesday's Major League Baseball All-Star Game.

Major League Baseball announced the selections on Thursday, five days before Konerko will join the American League lineup against Victorino and the National League squad in the annual mid-season showcase of stars.

Konerko, named to his fifth all-star squad with 8.4 million votes, lives near the

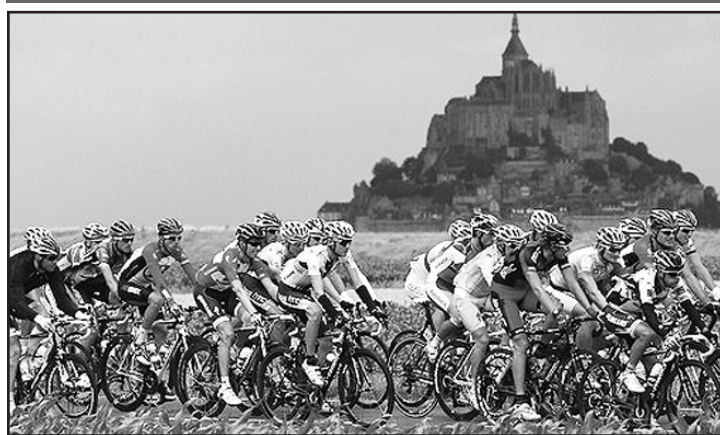
site of the game in Phoenix, Arizona.

"It's something you always remember. It's a special time," Konerko said. "I don't think you ever play long enough or do enough where going to the All-Star game isn't a big deal."

Victorino received 9.2 million votes, 6.7 million less than when he won the fan vote in 2009 but enough for a wire-to-wire win.

"The past few days have been incredible," Victorino said. "To take the lead from Day One shows how supportive the fans have been from the start of the campaign."

Tour teams wary ahead of foray into Massif Central



CHATEAUROUX (AFP) - Rabobank team manager Erik Breukink is not ruling out Alberto Contador attacking his yellow jersey rivals this weekend in a bid to close his surprise deficit on the Tour de France.

Defending champion Contador has been one of the chief victims of a chaotic first week on the race, the Spaniard crashing three times to hand over a minute's advantage to main rivals Andy Schleck and Cadel Evans.

As of today the peloton started racing in the hilly Massif Central for three stages that are set to provide plenty more drama.

As well as giving victory

chances to the 'punchers', stages eight to ten are designed to warm the peloton up for the longer climbs in the Pyrenees.

Breukink's own yellow jersey contender, Robert Gesink, holds a lead of 1min 22sec on Contador as he continues his recovery from a high speed crash on Wednesday.

But the Dutchman said the Spaniard may decide not to wait for his favourite terrain of the high mountains to try and close the gap.

"Contador will try to gain time where he can. All the GC (general classification) guys have been keeping their powder dry up till now, but

tomorrow could be different," Breukink said Friday.

"That's where the race will start for some of the favourites."

Today's eighth stage is over 189 km from Aigurande to Super-Besse and features four short climbs while Sunday's ninth stage, over 298 km from Issoire to Saint-Flour, features nine short climbs.

Following Monday's rest day a third, easier day in the hilly volcanic region should provide a clearer indication of who's hot and who's not.

Schleck, the runner-up the past two years, excels on the long mountain climbs that have often decided the destination of the yellow jersey.

Although his Leopard teammate Stuart O'Grady believes the Massif Central could be "pretty critical", his team manager Brian Nygaard is hoping for a comparatively calm weekend.

"It's been a super stressful week for all the GC teams," Nygaard told AFP.

"Not just on the legs. The level of concentration has been really high, it's been like doing a one-day classic every day."

Australian Cadel Evans is second overall at 01sec behind Norway's Thor Hushovd after enjoying an exemplary first week. But he knows the Massif Central can't be under-estimated.

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At least USA avoid Germany, admits Wambach

2011 FIFA Women's World Cup June 26-July 17



WOLFSBURG (AFP) - USA striker Abby Wambach has said her team's shock 2-1 defeat to Sweden could be a blessing in disguise as the Stars and Stripes now avoid champions Germany in the women's World Cup quarter-finals.

Sweden stunned two-time winners the USA in their final Group C game here on Wednesday, but both teams march into the quarter-finals, where the Americans now face Brazil and Sweden play Australia.

"We are just happy to be in the quarter-finals, although we would have loved to have finished top of the group," said Wambach, who has now scored 119 goals for her country.

"Germany are on the other

side of the draw, so we are just excited about that opportunity."

The result leaves Sweden as group winners after three victories and they play Australia in Augsburg on Sunday, the same day group runners-up the US play the Brazilians in Dresden in a mouth-watering tie.

After her player-of-the-match performance against the USA, Olympique Lyon striker Lotta Schelin said there was no relief amongst the Swedes at missing out on playing unbeaten Brazil in the last eight.

"I haven't really thought about it, we are just focused on playing Australia," she said.

"They can play well too, you can compare them to Brazil, so they are all we are worrying about."

Having already beaten the USA in January in China, Schelin said her side had been confident of upsetting the former world champions again.

"It was a wonderful game, we saw some really nice goals and it was a good performance by both teams," she said.

"We really respect the USA, but at the same time we knew we could beat them. After her side managed to convert just one of the 20 chances they created against Sweden, USA coach Pia Sundhage said her team must improve their finishing -- starting with Brazil.

"What we will be talking about from now on is getting to the final, we need to get sharper and step up, starting against Brazil," said Sundhage.

Women's WorldCup Quarter-Finals

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Sweden v Australia
Brazil v USA (1530)

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Pakistan says India rejected revenue sharing plan

KARACHI (AFP) - Pakistan's cricket chief Ijaz Butt has said India rejected a proposal to share revenue from a possible series between the arch rivals on the grounds that India will play host.

"We hope the series will be revived and we told them we are ready to play in India

but revenue should be shared 50-50, but they did not accept the proposal," Butt said in an interview broadcast late Thursday.

India cancelled a series with Pakistan after Islamist gunmen went on the rampage in Mumbai in November 2008, killing 166 people in

attacks that India and the United States blamed on Pakistan-based militants.

Pakistan is slated to tour India next February and March in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Future Tour Programme, subject to clearance from both governments.

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